



Repeater: NØDX 145.190 MHz (Input 144.590 / Tone 192.8 Hz)



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The Eastern Iowa DX Bulletin

Number 222, May 17, 2024

Craig Fastenow, KØCF, Editor

This bulletin is a compilation of **currently active** DX operations (or those that will become active within the current week) from recent issues of the three DX bulletins listed below and other sources. Credit for the source is given at the end of each article.

Articles are ordered by the entity's callsign prefix from the *ARRL DXCC Entities List*. Callsigns used are in **bold** with dates of operation highlighted in **red**. Clickable links are provided for QSL and other information wherever possible. Note that articles may be edited for grammar, language, style and accuracy and will remain in *The Bulletin* while active; articles that are announcements of ongoing operations, or that have no specified end date, will be removed after three weeks.

Also included is a [Propagation](#) section, updated daily; and a [Contest Calendar](#) of upcoming popular contests.

DX News items are courtesy of:

The ARRL DX Bulletin

The bulletin is available at <http://www.arrl.org>

425 DX News, A.R.I. DX Bulletin (425DXN)

Edited by Mauro Pregliasco, I1JQJ & Valeria Pregliasco, IK1ADH

425 DX News Home Page: <https://www.425dxn.org/>

425 DX News Google Group: <https://groups.google.com/g/425eng>

DX Newsletter (DXNL)

Edited by Andreas Salder, DK5ON

A weekly service of DARC Committee "DX", <http://www.darcdxhf.de>

Propagation data is from:

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's

[Space Weather Prediction Center](#)

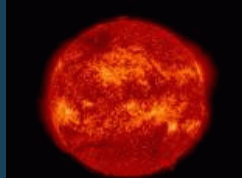
Dr. Tony Phillips' SpaceWeather.com, used by permission

Contest data courtesy of the [WA7BNM Contest Calendar](#)



Solar-Terrestrial Data

18 May 2024 1711 GMT
SFI: 204 SN: 169
A-Index: 29
K-Index: 2
X-Ray: C1.5
304A: 165.1 @ SEM
Ptn Flx: 6420
Elc Flx: 11200
Aurora: 2/n=1.99
Mag (Bz): -0.3
Solar Wind: 417.9
Geomag Field QUIET
Sig Noise Lvl S1-S2
Current Solar Image



<http://www.nonbh.com>
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DX News

3D2, CONWAY REEF. Members of the Rebel DX Group are QRV as **3D2CCC**. Activity is on 160 to 10 meters using CW, SSB, and FT8. QSL via [ClubLog's OQRS](#).

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 18 May 2, 2024] (0503-0524)

4X, ISRAEL. Israeli amateurs may include the figures 76 into their prefix to mark the country's 76th anniversary from **May 13th to 18th**, e.g.: 4Z1RZ turns into 4Z76RZ, 4X1VF turns into 4X76VF, 4X6ZZ turns into 4X76ZZ.

-[DXNL # 2406 May 15, 2024] (0517-0524)

5Z, KENYA. Reto, HB9BFL is QRV as **5Z4GO** from Mombasa. Activity is on the HF bands. QSL via LoTW.

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 18 May 2, 2024] (0503-0524)

8P, BARBADOS. Chris, WA7RAR, will be active as **8P9CB** from **May 14th to 26th** on 20-10m (CW, SSB). QSL via [WA7RAR](#).

-[DXNL # 2405 May 8, 2024] (0510-0531)

8Q, MALDIVES. Rolf, DO4RKR will be active as **8Q7KR** from the Maldives (AS-013) on **May 19th-31st**. He will run 30 watts and operate SSB on 10 meters only. QSL via [DO4RKR](#).

-[425DXN # 1723 May 11, 2024] (0517-0531)

9H, MALTA. Special callsign **9H6HE** is being used by the Malta Amateur Radio League (9H1MRL) to celebrate the swearing in of Dr. Myriam Spiteri Debono as Malta's 11th President. Look for activity from **April 15th to May 31st**, on 40, 20, 15 and 10 meters SSB, CW and digital modes. Paper QSL cards will not be available; QSL via LoTW.

-[425DXN # 1720 April 20, 2024] (0419-0531)

C9, MOZAMBIQUE. Bill, **C91CCY** has been active using SSB on 80 meters around 0400z, and 40 meters around 0430z. QSL via [K3IRV](#).

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 19 May 9, 2024] (0510-0531)

CP, BOLIVIA. Members of the Yaguarete DX Group (Joe, LU1FM, Fer, LU6FOV, Rene, LU7HN, Pablo, LU7MT, Alex, LU8YD, Dany, LU9FHF, and Osvaldo, LU5DF) will be active as **CP7DX** from Tarija, Bolivia on **May 11th-19th**. They will operate SSB, CW, FT8 (F/H) on 160-6 meters, as well as SSB and FM via LEO satellites. See <https://jvp-antenas.com.ar/cp7dx/> for more information. QSL via [ClubLog's QQRS](#), or direct to [LU1FM](#).

-[425DXN # 1722 May 4, 2024] (0510-0524)

CT, PORTUGAL. Members of the Portuguese DX Group are QRV with special call sign **CS2GPDX** during **May** to celebrate the group's 30th anniversary. Awards are available, see:

<http://gpdx.netpower.pt/>. QSL via bureau.

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 18 May 2, 2024] (0503-0531)

CT3, MADEIRA IS. Members of the Portuguese DX Group are QRV with special call sign **CR3GPDX** during **May** to celebrate the group's 30th anniversary. Awards are available, see:

<http://gpdx.netpower.pt/>. QSL via bureau.

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 18 May 2, 2024] (0503-0531)

CU, AZORES. Members of the Portuguese DX Group are QRV with special call sign **CR2GPDX** during **May** to celebrate the group's 30th anniversary. Awards are available, see: <http://gpdx.netpower.pt/>.

QSL via bureau.

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 18 May 2, 2024] (0503-0531)

DL, GERMANY. The Berlin Airlift was an operation that carried supplies by plane to the Allied sectors of West Berlin over a Russian blockade. For more than a year, hundreds of American, British and French cargo planes ferried provisions to West Berlin's Tempelhof, Gatow and Tegel airfields. Commemorating the 75th anniversary of the end of the Berlin Airlift, three special event stations will be active from **May 12th until June 24th**: **DLØGWW** for Gatow, **DLØTXL** for Tegel, and **DLØTHF** for Tempelhof. An award will be available: <https://ham-awards.de/index.php/75luft/>. An operating schedule is available here: <https://www.darc.de/der-club/distrikte/ortsverbaende/33/75luft/>. Paper QSL cards will not be provided; QSL via LoTW, QRZ Logbook, and the DARC Community Logbook.

-[425DXN # 1724 May 18, 2024] (0517-0628)

DXCC TOP TWENTY. Here are the top 20 entities on ClubLog's "DXCC Most Wanted" list as of May 17, 2024:

1. P5	DPRK (North Korea)	11. 3Y/B	Bouvet Island
2. BS7H	Scarborough Reef	12. ZS8	Prince Edward & Marion Islands
3. CEØX	San Felix Islands	13. KH4	Midway Island
4. BV9P	Pratas Island	14. VKØM	Macquarie Island
5. KH7K	Kure Island	15. PYØS	Saint Peter And Paul Rocks
6. KH3	Johnston Island	16. KP5	Desecheo Island
7. FT/G	Glorioso Island	17. VPØS	South Sandwich Islands
8. 3Y/P	Peter 1 Island	18. KH5	Palmyra & Jarvis Islands
9. FT5/X	Kerguelen Island	19. ZL9	New Zealand Subantarctic Islands
10. YVØ	Aves Island	20. FK/C	Chesterfield Islands

For the complete list, see <https://clublog.org/mostwanted.php>
-[KØCF May 17, 2024] (0517-0531)

EI, IRELAND. Special event station **EI8ØMB** remains active **until the end of May** from the National Maritime Museum, commemorating the rescue of 169 German sailors by the MV Kerlogue after a battle in the Bay of Biscay. QSL via [EI6AL](#), [ClubLog's QQRS](#).
-[DXNL # 2404 May 1, 2024] (0503-0531)

ET, ETHIOPIA. Ken, K4ZW, has returned to Addis Abeba and will be active as **ET3AA**. He hopes to eliminate some HF noise sources and set up a new PC at the station as well. QSL via [N2OO](#).
-[DXNL # 2406 May 15, 2024] (0517-0607)

F, FRANCE. Special event station **TM85JO** operates around the Olympic Torch stages from **May 8th to 12th, June 8th to 9th, June 21st to 23rd, July 12th to 14th**, and on **July 26th**. QSL via bureau.
-[DXNL # 2405 May 8, 2024] (0510-0726)

F, FRANCE. Special callsign **TM86JO** will be used on **May 19th-26th** as the Paris 2024 Olympic Torch Relay passes through the French Department of Vienne, and again on **August 5th-11th** during the Olympic Games.
-[425DXN # 1723 May 11, 2024] (0517-0531)

FY, FRENCH GUIANA. Operators at club station FY5KE are QRV as **TO6ØCSG** each weekend in April, May, and June to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the Guiana Space Centre. See detailed information at [TO6ØCSG](#). QSL direct to [FY5KE](#).
-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 14 April 4, 2024] (0405-0628)

G, ENGLAND. Special event station **GB6WW** will be active from **May 1st to 28th**, commemorating the end of World War II. An award is also available for contacts with GB6WW on 3 bands. QSL via [MMØDFV](#).
-[DXNL # 2404 May 1, 2024] (0503-0531)

G, ENGLAND. Joining Guglielmo Marconi's 150th anniversary celebrations, the Cornish Radio Amateur Club (GX4CRC) will be active as **GB15ØGM** from **April 27th until July 27th**. This activity participates in the "Marconi 150 Award", organized by the Associazione Radioamatori Italiani (ARI) and the Coordinamento Stazioni Marconiane Italiane (CSMI) under the patronage of the Guglielmo Marconi Foundation. See IR2GMCL below. QSL via eQSL.
-[425DXN # 1720 April 20, 2024] (0426-0726)

GI, NORTHERN IRELAND. Once again the North West Group ARC (MNØNWG) is running special event station **GBØAEL** from **May 5th to 31st** to commemorate the anniversary of Amelia Earhart's transatlantic flight. On May 20-21, 1932, Earhart became the first woman to fly nonstop and alone across the Atlantic, leaving Harbor Grace on Newfoundland (Canada), and landing 15 hours later near Londonderry (Northern Ireland). QSL via [MIØHOZ](#).
-[425DXN # 1722 May 4, 2024] (0503-0531)

I, ITALY. Members of ARI Trapani (IQ9TP) will be active as **I19IKF** on **May 20th-26th** for the 16th edition of the International Kite Festival at San Vito Lo Capo. QSL via the bureau, LoTW and eQSL.
-[425DXN # 1724 May 18, 2024] (0517-0531)

I, ITALY. The United Nations Global Service Centre ARC (4U1GSC) in Brindisi is active as **4U29MAY** **until May 31st**. The special callsign promotes the International Day of UN Peacekeepers (May 29th). DXCC wise, it counts for Italy. QSL via [9A2AA](#).
-[425DXN # 1722 May 4, 2024] (0503-0531)

I, ITALY. Commemorating the 150th anniversary of the birth of Guglielmo Marconi, members of ARI's Board of Directors will be active as **IR2GMCL** from **April 28th to July 27th** during the "Marconi 150 Award". See <https://www.qrz.com/db/IR2GMCL> for the rules. Paper QSL cards will not be provided; electronic QSLs may be downloaded from the HamAward platform.
-[425DXN # 1720 April 20, 2024] (0426-0726)

I, ITALY. Members of ARI Venezia (IQ3VE) will be active as **IR3POLO** from **April 1st to June 30th**. The special callsign commemorates the 700th anniversary since the death of Marco Polo, the Venetian merchant and explorer who travelled through Asia along the Silk Road (1271-1295). All QSOs will be confirmed automatically via the bureau.

-[425DXN # 1716 March 23, 2024] (0329-0628)

JA, JAPAN. Take, JI3DST will be active again from the Miyako Islands (AS-079) from **April 24th to June 26th**. Callsigns to be used are **JS6RRR**, **JS6RRR/6**, **JI3DST/6**, **JJ5RBH/6** and **JR8YLY/6** on SSB and CW, as well as **JS6RRR/p**, **JI3DST/p**, **JJ5RBH/p** and **JR8YLY/p** on FT8/FT4. QSOs will be made available for ClubLog and LoTW Matching on the IOTA website.

-[425DXN # 1720 April 20, 2024] (0419-0628)

JD1/O, OGASAWARA. Tosy, JA6VZB will be active as **JD1BQW** from Chichijima (AS-031), Ogasawara from **May 22nd to June 5th**, including entries in the CQ WW WPX CW Contest (May 25th-26th) and the ARRL Digital Contest (June 1st-2nd). He plans to concentrate on 12 and 6 meters FT8 before and after the contests. QSL via LoTW, eQSL, [ClubLog's QQRS](https://www.clublog.org/qsl/), or via the bureau to [JA6VZB](mailto:JA6VZB@jari.or.jp).

-[425DXN # 1723 May 11, 2024] (0517-0607)

OE, AUSTRIA. Austrian amateurs are going to put **OE2ØSOTA** on the air from different summits from **May through October**, marking the 20th anniversary of the Austrian SOTA program. An award is available for 20 contacts with the special callsign. For more information see:

<https://www.qrz.com/db/OE20SOTA> and <https://oevsv.at/funkbetrieb/sota/OE20SOTA/> for a calendar with an operating schedule.

-[DXNL # 2404 May 1, 2024] (0503-0524)

OK, CZECH REPUBLIC. Sixteen special event stations, representing the teams competing in the 87th Ice Hockey World Championship to be held in the Czech Republic (May 10th-26th), will be active from **April 27th to May 26th**: **OL87DL**, **OL87F**, **OL87G**, **OL87HB**, **OL87LA**, **OL87OE**, **OL87OH**, **OL87OK**, **OL87OM**, **OL87OZ**, **OL87SM**, **OL87SP**, **OL87UN**, **OL87VE**, **OL87W** and **OL87YL**. Look for activity on 160-10 meters SSB, CW and digital modes. Three certificates will be available: see <https://ol87whc.cz/> for information. Paper QSLs will not be issued, but electronic QSLs are via LoTW and eQSL.

-[425DXN # 1721 April 27, 2024] (0426-0524)

ON, BELGIUM. Members of the Antwerp Port Radio Club (ON8APC) operate as **OT2Ø24EPIC** until **May 19th** around the 7th Antwerp Port Epic-Sels Trophy, a bicycle race.

-[DXNL # 2406 May 15, 2024] (0517-0524)

ON, BELGIUM. The special event station **OR9ØAR** will be active **during May**, commemorating the death of Albert I of Belgium 90 years ago. QSL via bureau.

-[DXNL # 2404 May 1, 2024] (0503-0531)

ON, BELGIUM. Members of Club Radio Durnal (ON4CRD) will be active as **OR9ØAL** on **May 1st-31st**. The special callsign marks 90 years since the death of Albert I, King of the Belgians, who died in a mountaineering accident at the age of 58. QSL via the bureau.

-[425DXN # 1721 April 27, 2024] (0426-0531)

PY, BRAZIL. Gus, PT2ADM is QRV as **ZW3ØAS** until **May 31st**. Look for activity on 80-6 meters digital and SSB. This special callsign honors Ayrton Senna, the Brazilian Formula 1 driver, on the 30th anniversary of his death during the 1994 San Marino Grand Prix. QSL via LoTW, or via [PT2ADM](mailto:PT2ADM@pt2adm.com).

-[425DXN # 1722 May 4, 2024] (0503-0531)

SV, GREECE. Giovanni, IZ2DPX has been active as **SV8/IZ2DPX** from Serifos Island (EU-067) since May 13th and will remain there until **May 23rd**. He operates SSB and FT8 on 40-6 meters. QSL via LoTW.

-[425DXN # 1724 May 18, 2024] (0517-0524)

T5, SOMALIA. Alex, IT9HRK is QRV as **T5/IT9HRK** from Mogadishu. Activity is in his spare time on 80 to 10 meters using mainly SSB, with some CW, RTTY, FT8, and FT4. He is here for several months. QSL via [IU5RPJ](mailto:IT9HRK@it9hrk.com).

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 19 May 9, 2024] (0510-0531)

TR, GABON. Roland, F8EN will be active again as **TR8CR** from Gabon from **May 15th until the end of June** (maybe longer). He will operate CW only and will celebrate his 96th birthday while there. Log search on <http://LesNouvellesDX.fr/voirlogs.php>. QSL via [F6AJA](#).
-[425DXN # 1723 May 11, 2024] (0510-0628)

UA, EUROPEAN RUSSIA. Commemorating the 119th anniversary of the birth of Mikhail A. Sholokhov (the 1965 Nobel Prize in Literature), special callsigns **R119MS** and **UE39MS** will be active on **May 20th-24th** during the 39th edition of the Sholokhov Spring Festival. A certificate will be available on <https://hamlog.online/club/mdxc>. QSLs via [RQ7L](#).
-[425DXN # 1724 May 18, 2024] (0517-0524)

UA9, ASIATIC RUSSIA. Konstantin, RGØF (ex RAØFW), plans a short business trip to Paramushir Island (AS-204) for **May 18th to 21st**. During his spare time, he will be active as **RGØF/p** on 40-10m (CW, FT8). This will be only the second activation of this island after the first one in 2019 (R26RRC). QSL via [RGØF](#).
-[DXNL # 2406 May 15, 2024] (0517-0524)

VP9, BERMUDA. Darrell, AB2E will be active as **AB2E/VP9** from Bermuda (NA-005) on **May 23rd-27th**, including an entry in the CQ WW WPX CW Contest (May 25th-26th) as VP9I. Outside the contest he will operate mainly CW on 30, 17 and 12 meters, with some FT8 on the low bands. QSL AB2E/VP9 via LoTW, or direct to [AB2E](#). QSL VP9I via [WW3S](#).
-[425DXN # 1723 May 11, 2024] (0517-0531)

VU7, LAKSHADWEEP IS. Santhilal, VU3OQK, reports that he is planning to be active as **VU7LAL** from Lakshadweep Islands (Agatti & Kavarathi) towards the **end of April until May 31st**. He will be on 40, 20 and 10 meters from both islands. QSL via [VU3OQK](#).
-[Tnx KØJGH April 13, 2024] (0426-0531)

XE, MEXICO. Special event station **6EØRM** will be active on **May 17th-26th** during the 10th edition of the Rally Maya Mexico. Activity is expected to take place on 40-6 meters from Merida (May 17th-18th, grids EL50, EL51, EL40), Campeche (May 19th, grid EK49), Uxmal (May 20th-21st, grid EL50), Valladolid (May 22nd-23rd, grid EL50), and Cancun (May 24th-26th, grid EL61). QSOs will be uploaded to LoTW and ClubLog.
-[425DXN # 1721 April 27, 2024] (0517-0524)

XW, LAOS. Vincent, **XW4KV** is QRV from Vang Vieng **until June 1st**. Lately he has been active on 15 meters using FT8 around 1100z. QSL via [F4BKV](#).
-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 12 March 21, 2024] (0322-0531)

YI, IRAQ. Antonio, IZ5WPZ is QRV as **YI9WPZ** **until August**. Activity is on the HF bands using CW and SSB. QSL via [IK2DUW](#).
(**Note:** DXNL #2406, on May 15 reports that Diya, Z81D/YI1DZ, the president of the Iraqi amateur radio organization, says that the operating permit for YI9WPZ has not been granted yet and that presently it is considered to be an illegal operation.)
-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 18 May 2, 2024] (0503-0524)

YO, ROMANIA. Celebrating the 95th anniversary of the first amateur radio association in Romania's Arad County, special callsigns **YR95AR**, **YR95CC**, **YR95CH**, **YR95IN**, **YR95LI**, **YR95PE** and **YR95SE** will be active from **February 16th until May 31st**. The event is being organized by C.S. Radioclub Admira (YO2KBQ), the successor of the club that was established almost a century ago. See <https://www.qrz.com/db/YR95AR> for more information.
-[425DXN # 1711 February 17, 2024] (0216-0531)

Z8, SOUTH SUDAN. Diya, **Z81D**, has set up all his antennas at his new location and is back on 80-10m (SSB, FT8). QSL via [OM3JW](#) OQRS, LoTW, eQSL.
-[DXNL # 2406 May 15, 2024] (0517-0607)

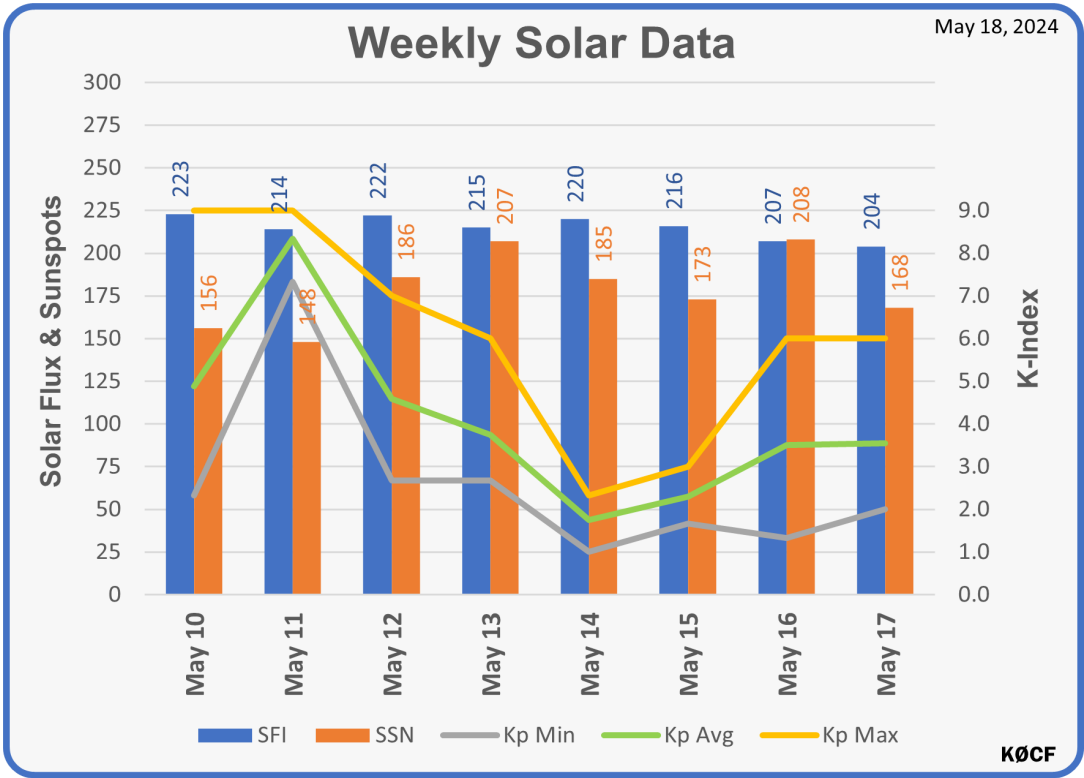
ZC4, UK SOVEREIGN BASE AREAS ON CYPRUS. Martin, MWØBRO, will be active from Dhekelia as **ZC4GW** from **May 17th to 27th** on 40-6m with 100W on CW. There will be no paper cards - QSL via

LoTW, eQSL.
-[DXNL # 2406 May 15, 2024] (0517-0531)

ZL, NEW ZEALAND. Members of the Gisborne Branch of the New Zealand Association of Radio Transmitters are QRV with special event call **ZL1ØØAC** during May to commemorate the first trans-Pacific contact with Carlos Braggio, CB8, near Buenos Aires, Argentina. QSL via operators' instructions.
-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 19 May 9, 2024] (0510-0531)

ZL, NEW ZEALAND. Special event station **ZL6WG** remains active until May 31st supporting the 98th NZART conference (June 1st-2nd) at the Museum of Aeronautics in Christchurch. An award is also available. QSL only via LoTW.
-[DXNL # 2403 April 24, 2024] (0426-0531)

Propagation (Updated daily)



The Weekly Solar Data chart plots Solar Flux Index (SFI), Sunspot number (SSN) and Planetary K-Index (Kp) for the past 8 days. With 8 Planetary K-index readings each day, only the minimum, average and maximum K-index values are plotted. **Note:** You may click [here](#) or on the chart above to see the same data for the past month.

The Daily Solar Flux Index, Sunspot number, Planetary K-index, Solar Flux predictions and Solar Flare data used in this bulletin have been collected by KØCF from from the U.S. Department of Commerce's NOAA Space Weather Prediction Center.

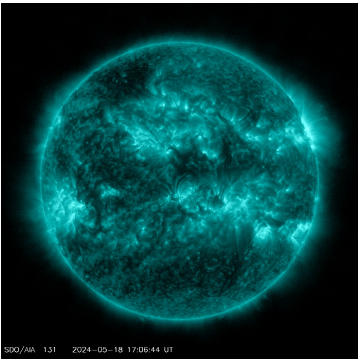
The propagation graphs above are the creations of KØCF and are unique in space weather reporting.

Please Note: The graphs are high resolution .PNG files which you may view in greater detail using your browser's "zoom" feature. Alternatively, right click on the graph and select "Open Image in New Tab" to enlarge it, or "Save Image As..." to save it to your computer for further analysis.

NASA's current view of
the Sun at a wave-

length of 131 Angstroms.
This wavelength shows
incredible solar detail.

Click [here](#) or on the
image to view as a full
screen 48-hour video
loop. It is fascinating!



Propagation Summary

For the 8 day period from Friday, May 10th through yesterday, May 17th.

The average solar flux was 214, up 14 points from the previous week, with a weekly high of 223 on Friday, May 10th, followed by a low of 204 on May 17th.

The average sunspot count was 182, up 32 from last week, peaking at 208 on Thursday, May 16th after a weekly low of 148 on May 11th.

The Planetary K-index weekly average was 6.0 with a maximum of 9.0 on Saturday, May 11th, resulting in extreme geomagnetic storm conditions.

Solar flare activity since May 11th has been nearing historic levels with 28 major flares, the largest of which was a major X 8.7 event on Tuesday, May 14th.

Propagation Data

Major solar flares, Saturday, May 11th through 1409 UTC, May 18th.

#	Date	UTC	Mag.
1	May 17	2108	M 7.2
2	May 16	0804	M 1.0
3	May 15	1438	X 2.9
4	May 15	1417	M 3.2
5	May 15	1406	M 2.9
6	May 15	1036	M 3.5
7	May 15	0837	X 3.4
8	May 14	1738	M 4.4
9	May 14	1651	X 8.7
10	May 14	1255	X 1.2
11	May 14	0209	X 1.7
12	May 14	0148	M 2.5
13	May 13	2159	M 1.5
14	May 13	1747	M 1.0
15	May 13	1311	M 3.7
16	May 13	0944	M 6.6
17	May 13	0829	M 1.4
18	May 13	0133	M 1.2
19	May 12	2032	M 4.8

20	May 12	1626	X 1.0
21	May 12	1356	M 1.5
22	May 12	1241	M 1.6
23	May 12	0550	M 2.4
24	May 12	0046	M 3.1
25	May 11	1525	M 8.8
26	May 11	1144	X 1.5
27	May 11	1016	M 3.0
28	May 11	0123	X 5.8

(NOAA's graph of recent flare activity: [GOES-X-Ray-Flux](#))

From the NOAA Space Weather Prediction Center, here are the probabilities of major solar flares and the predicted 10.7 cm Solar Flux for the next 3 days. NOAA updates this information daily.

Date	M-Flares	X-Flares	Solar Flux
May 18	35%	10%	205
May 19	35%	10%	205
May 20	35%	10%	205

Looking farther ahead, here is the NOAA Space Weather Prediction Center forecast of 10.7 cm radio flux and maximum Planetary K-index (Kp) for the next 12 days. This data is updated by NOAA every Monday (last updated on May 13, 2024).

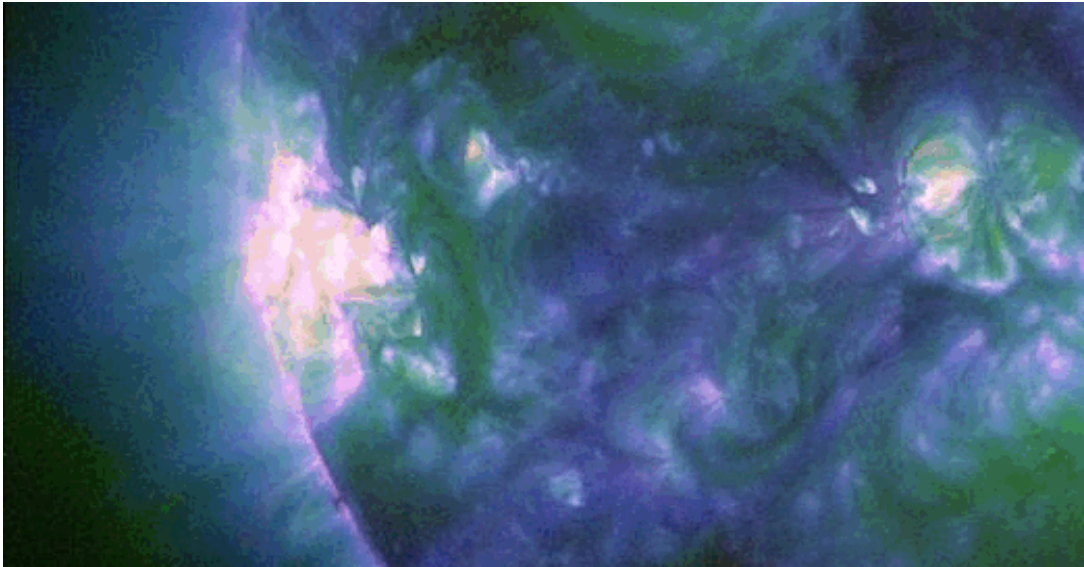
Date	Flux	Kp
May 18	170	2
May 19	170	2
May 20	160	2
May 21	165	2

Date	Flux	Kp
May 22	165	2
May 23	160	3
May 24	160	4
May 25	160	3

Date	Flux	Kp
May 26	160	2
May 27	165	4
May 28	175	3
May 29	195	2

Strong Solar Flare

New sunspot AR3685 erupted yesterday (May 17th at 2108 UTC), producing a strong M7-class solar flare. NASA's Solar Dynamics Observatory photographed the explosion:



This follows an X3-flare from the same sunspot on May 15th. Neither of these flares was squarely

Earth-directed because of the sunspot's location near the sun's SE limb. The geometry is changing, though. Next week, eruptions from AR3685 will target our planet.
(Copyright © [SpaceWeather.com](https://spaceweather.com) May 18, 2024. Republished by permission.)

Highs for Cycle 25

Solar Flux: 234 on January 15, 2023.
Sunspots: 283 on April 21, 2024.

Popular Propagation web sites

<https://prop.kc2g.com/> (Excellent Maximum Usable Frequency map)
NOAA <https://www.swpc.noaa.gov/>
<https://www.spaceweather.com/>
<https://www.solarham.com/>
<https://dx.qsl.net/propagation/>

A Propagation Tutorial

The solar X-ray flux tracks solar activity and solar flares. Solar flux, which can vary from as low as 50 to as high as 300, influences the level of ionization in the F2 region of the ionosphere, providing a very good prediction of HF DX conditions. The higher the solar flux, the better conditions will be for the higher HF frequencies and even 6 meters. However, the levels need to be maintained for some days to allow ionization in the F2 layer to build up. A solar flux of 150 results in good HF band conditions, while levels of 200 and up can provide great conditions.

Large X-ray flares on the sun can increase the ionization of the D layer of the ionosphere (a lower layer) on the sunlit side of the Earth, greatly attenuating or blocking HF radio transmissions for up to a half hour. Solar flares often produce Coronal Mass Ejections (CMEs) which, if Earth directed, can lead to geomagnetic storms. Some large flares are also accompanied by strong radio bursts that may interfere with other radio frequencies and cause problems for satellite communication and radio navigation (GPS).

The Planetary K-index is a measure of the magnitude of geomagnetic storms and is an excellent indicator of disturbances in the Earth's magnetic field. A level of 1 or 2 represents quiet geomagnetic conditions; a reading of 3 or 4 may cause some propagation deterioration; 5 and 6 are minor to moderate geomagnetic storms; and 7 to 9 are strong, severe, and extreme storm conditions. Strong geomagnetic storms can trigger Auroral displays and cause HF radio blackouts. Higher geomagnetic activity also has the adverse effect of lowering maximum usable frequencies, much like lower solar flux does.

For best conditions, the solar flux should be above 150 for a few days with the K index below 2. When these conditions are met, some good DX is likely!
-[Compiled from information on NOAA.gov and other sources]

Contest Calendar

Weekly Contests

Contest	Start UTC		End	Web Site
K1USN Slow Speed Test	Monday	0000Z	0100Z	Rules
ICWC Medium Speed Test	Monday	1300Z	1400Z	Rules
	Monday	1900Z	2000Z	
	Tuesday	0300Z	0400Z	
CWops Test (CWT)	Wednesday	1300Z	1400Z	Rules

	Wednesday	1900Z	2000Z	
	Thursday	0300Z	0400Z	
	Thursday	0700Z	0800Z	
Weekly RTTY Test	Friday	0145Z	0215Z	Rules
NCCC CW Sprint (NS)	Friday	0230Z	0300Z	Rules

Note: Start Days are in UTC, e.g. Monday at 0000 UTC is
Sunday at 7:00 PM in the Central Daylight Saving Time zone, or
Sunday at 6:00 PM in the Central Standard Time zone.

Full Calendar

Contest	Start		End		Web Site
His Maj. King of Spain Contest, CW	May 18	1200Z	May 19	1200Z	Rules
Arkansas QSO Party	May 18	1400Z	May 19	0200Z	Rules
Baltic Contest	May 18	2100Z	May 19	0200Z	Rules
CQ WW WPX Contest, CW	May 25	0000Z	May 26	2400Z	Rules
Kentucky QSO Party	Jun 1	1300Z	Jun 2	0100Z	Rules
ARRL Inter. Digital Contest	Jun 1	1800Z	Jun 2	2400Z	Rules
ARRL June VHF Contest	Jun 8	1800Z	Jun 10	0300Z	Rules
Stew Perry Topband Challenge	Jun 15	1500Z	Jun 16	1500Z	Rules
West Virginia QSO Party	Jun 15	1600Z	Jun 16	0400Z	Rules
ARRL Kids Day	Jun 15	1800Z	Jun 15	2359Z	Rules
His Maj. King of Spain Contest, SSB	Jun 22	1200Z	Jun 23	1200Z	Rules
Ukrainian DX DIGI Contest	Jun 22	1200Z	Jun 23	1200Z	Rules
ARRL Field Day	Jun 22	1800Z	Jun 23	2100Z	Rules
RAC Canada Day Contest	Jul 1	0000Z	Jul 1	2359Z	Rules
IARU HF World Championship	Jul 13	1200Z	Jul 14	1200Z	Rules
CQ Worldwide VHF Contest	Jul 20	1800Z	Jul 21	2100Z	Rules
North American QSO Party, RTTY	Jul 20	1800Z	Jul 21	0559Z	Rules
RSGB IOTA Contest	Jul 27	1200Z	Jul 28	1200Z	Rules
Alabama QSO Party	Jul 27	1500Z	Jul 28	0300Z	Rules
10-10 Int. Summer Contest, SSB	Aug 3	0001Z	Aug 4	2359Z	Rules
North American QSO Party, CW	Aug 3	1800Z	Aug 4	0600Z	Rules
WAE DX Contest, CW	Aug 10	0000Z	Aug 11	2359Z	Rules
Maryland-DC QSO Party	Aug 10	1400Z	Aug 11	0400Z	Rules
North American QSO Party, SSB	Aug 17	1800Z	Aug 18	0600Z	Rules
ARRL Rookie Roundup, RTTY	Aug 18	1800Z	Aug 18	2359Z	Rules

-[Contest data courtesy of the [WA7BNM Contest Calendar](#)]